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AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

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INFORMATION RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Librarians in academic research libraries must constantly re-examine their mission and the role they play in the institutions they serve. In particular, the profession needs to systematically evaluate the information needs of researchers and the importance of library services and librarian's skills to the research process. In 1983, the Albert R. Mann Library of Cornell University applied for and received a grant to study appropriate public services for agricultural research faculty. The grant was supported by the General Electric Foundation and awarded under the Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Studies, Public Services in Research Libraries Project.

Several key factors furnished the rationale for this study. First, the general undocumented observation that faculty is under-served in academic libraries provided a basis for concern. In a premier research institution, library service for faculty should add significantly to the research process. Second, few studies exist which measure faculty response to proposed services as well as existing services. As traditional modes of information retrieval change and some become obsolete, it is important that faculty are aware that librarians are willing and able to adapt their practices to new technology and can find creative solutions to deal with the information explosion. Third, some faculty may wish to change who performs some of their library tasks for them; library staff may be able to provide more efficient services than departmental assistants. Fourth, if the library is seen as indispensable by the faculty, it will have a powerful and influential lobbying group who will assist in funding new services.

The hypothesis was that faculty seem to under utilize information resources in their research. They express concern about keeping up with the prolific number and variety of resources available. If library services were made more convenient and accessible, more like those of a special library, faculty would change their information resource pattern.

The anticipated outcome of the study and a general introduction to the study appeared in the June 1983 issue of ALIN; this report highlights the major findings of the project.

INFORMATION SEEKING PATTERNS

One of the primary emphases of this study was to describe the kinds of information resources agricultural faculty use in their research. The researchers were asked how they kept current with relevant information in their field of study. The ten responses rated most essential or very important are:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
1	Reading journals in their field	88.1
2	Using their own collection of materials	70.2
3	Attending conferences or professional meetings	64.7
4	Correspondence and discussion with colleagues outside the university	64.6
5	Locating citations referenced in books and journal bibliographies	57.5
6	Correspondence and discussion with colleagues within the university	57.1
7	Consulting a known expert	47.1
8	Reading journals in related fields	45.6
9	Conducting online computer literature searches with a librarian	38.0
10	Scanning hardcopy indexes and abstracts	31.6

IMPORTANT LIBRARY SERVICES

Another primary emphasis of the study was to determine what library services were most important to agricultural researchers. From a list of 20 services the top seven responses rated as either "essential" or "very important" are:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
1	Checking out books and older journals	61.7
2	Ability to phone in, ask a question, and receive a quick, informative response	53.5
3	Having material photocopied immediately	52.3
4	Self-service photocopying	52.1
5	Availability of reference librarians for consultation	51.7
6	Availability of computer literature searches in the library on demand	51.4
7	Obtaining materials quickly from outside Cornell University	48.8

DESCRIPTION AND USE OF THE ENHANCED SERVICES

Over the course of 3 months the library offered enhanced document delivery and information retrieval services to the eligible population. These services included photocopying, in-house journal table-of-contents, citation verification, document delivery, computer literature searching, SDI's, and in-depth specialized reference service. Projects included researching anaerobic digestion and milk marketing regulations, assisting a faculty member in establishing a personal bibliographic file on Sci-Mate, and compiling an extensive bibliography of monographs on cheese.

Faculty from all 25 departments used the services, with Agronomy, Natural Resources and Ecology, and Systematics accounting for the most use. In all, 159 individuals (34.3 percent of the total eligible population) used one or more of these services over the study period. Services used the most were computer literature searches (85.6 percent), photocopying of personally supplied references (59 percent), photocopying of references identified from

a computer literature search (47.5 percent), and photocopying of journal table of contents (24.8 percent). SDI's were the least patronized service.

These services were provided to the faculty without charge (individual requests were, however, subject to negotiation and limits were imposed on a case-by-case basis). In order to determine whether these services were so significant that researchers would underwrite their costs, we asked them how they would have proceeded if such an arrangement wasn't available: 80.6 percent responded that they would have paid for it with research budget funds, 65.5 percent indicated that they would have scaled down their request(s) for information, and 37.4 percent said that they wouldn't have used the services at all. In a separate question, researchers were asked who they thought should fund particular library services. A statistically significant and clear preference of funding source was indicated for two items in particular: the library should directly fund and support 1) the unrestricted use of interlibrary services and 2) the processes necessary for quickly obtaining materials from sources external to Cornell. For most other services, using funds from research budgets was the favored method of paying for services. We anticipate that these and other specialized services will be funded by direct payment from faculty.

Of the faculty who participated during the study period, 96.3 percent were generally satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the services and 94.4 percent were generally satisfied with the timeliness of the services provided.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The hypothesis, that if services were made more convenient and accessible researchers would change their use of information resources, was not proved as a result of this investigation. While our data showed few statistically significant changes as a result of the experimental period of services, our methodology consultants cautioned us at the outset that it would be very difficult to produce significant changes in such a short time frame. In addition, our statistical consultant advised that since many responses were so favorable towards the library and its services, it would be difficult to elicit much change. We anticipated that the provision of specialized services would effect the variety of information resources faculty use in their research and cause them to alter their patterns of library use and, in the case of a number of individual researchers, we found that the experimental period provided the impetus for change in their use of information resources. The following quotes from the post-questionnaire support our conclusion.

"The service greatly improved my research and grant writing ability."

"This initiative on the part of library personnel has caused me to update my library usage...and to see much richer possibilities for research."

"The service was excellent and my productivity was enhanced because of it."

"The additional services made a big difference in my utilization of the library. I went more often and obtained more information more quickly."

In our milieu the important barriers we removed were not necessarily barriers to physical access or convenience per se but rather barriers to the awareness of information sources and services. We have found that researchers will use information more if well-trained intermediaries are available. They seem to appreciate and value the skills of library staff and are more satisfied if the staff directly provides more attentive and specialized services.

At Mann Library, the experience of providing services during the grant period and the analysis of the survey data have led to a number of changes in public services and more changes are anticipated. Public service librarians have continued to provide extensive consultations to researchers, and the ties between librarians and faculty are being strengthened through implementation of a collection development/liaison model. Mann has continued its strong tradition of providing high quality computer searches, and the hours on the search schedule have been increased to accommodate the demand. We are also holding workshops for faculty who wish to conduct their own computer searches or who want to use bibliographic file management packages to manage their personal files of materials. In addition the survey results and the personal experience of the staff enabled us to construct a model of services for agricultural research faculty.

Also, Mann has consolidated the responsibility for some services under the rubric of Current Awareness Services. The specialized needs of particular audiences are presently being studied to determine if patterns of information diffusion and use vary by discipline, rank, productivity or research time. We hope to identify markets for traditional library current awareness services and develop innovative techniques for current awareness. One of the major areas of future concern for investigation and further research involves determining the most effective methods for communicating awareness of services to our faculty. We are also interested in discovering how library usage by faculty relates to the different stages in the thinking and activity processes of their research.

This study has provided Mann Library with some extremely useful insight into the nature of our constituents; it has served as a medium for communicating our services, capabilities and responsiveness to their information needs; and it has forcefully emphasized the need for librarians to assume a more pro-active role in information retrieval and the provision of appropriate public services.

The full text of the final report, which includes copies of all documentation and describes in detail the mechanics of the study, is available from: Association of Research Libraries, Office of Management Studies, 1527 New Hampshire Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Refer to "Appropriate Public Services for Agricultural Research Faculty," Cornell University, Public Services Research Report series. \$15.00. Prepayment required.



NEWS NOTES


JOSEPH H. HOWARD RECEIVES 1985 MELVIL DEWEY MEDAL



Joseph H. Howard

The citation presented to Howard July 10, at the ALA's annual conference in Chicago states: "Joseph H. Howard, as Assistant Librarian for Processing Services at the Library of Congress from 1976 to 1983, made creative use of computer technology and decentralized cataloging programs to expand and speed the flow of bibliographic information to the nation's libraries. He fostered standardization and sharing Library of Congress cataloging responsibilities with other agencies, instituting traveling workshops and training sessions at the Library of Congress."

Commending Howard's "commitment to decentralization and collaboration," which has "benefited libraries and library users throughout the United States and has served as a model to the library communities of other nations," the award committee noted that "his leadership has provided proof positive of Melvil Dewey's own prediction that the library profession is one 'within which cooperation may be made exceptionally useful.'"

Mr. Howard has been director of the NAL since 1983. He joined the Library of Congress in 1967, as Assistant Chief of the Descriptive Cataloging Division. He was promoted to chief of that division in 1968; in 1972, he was appointed Chief of the Serials Records Division; and in 1975 Assistant Director (Cataloging) before becoming Assistant Librarian for Processing Services in 1976. 

NAL Director Joseph H. Howard is the recipient of the 1985 Melvil Dewey Medal.

The award, presented by the American Library Association (ALA) is one of the ALA's most prestigious accolades. The Melvil Dewey medal has been given annually since 1953 "for recent creative professional achievement of a high order, particularly in those fields in which Melvil Dewey was actively interested, notably: library management, classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship."



NAL PROJECTS AND POLICIES

NAL PARTICIPATION IN THE ENHANCE PROJECT REDUCES COSTS, EXPEDITES LOAN PROCESSING


In May 1984 NAL was selected by OCLC to be in the first group of libraries receiving the Enhance authorization for the book format. The Enhance capability for the first time enables OCLC member libraries to permanently upgrade and correct records previously unavailable for online modification. NAL corrects and/or augments bibliographic records which are used during the routine cataloging work and are being added to the NAL collection.

A library using Enhance must follow all national cataloging standards: AACR2 for choice and form of entry and descriptive cataloging rules, the LC name authority file, MARC coding and format requirements, and OCLC bibliographic standards.

Since initiation of the project in July 1984, NAL has enhanced over 3,800 records. This past April, the OCLC Newsletter cited NAL as having the second highest enhance volume with 469 records in March after University Microfilms International with 547. During FY 1985 NAL is enhancing 26 percent of all records--25 percent was the projected estimate based on previous statistics.

NAL receives FTU, or First Time Use credits, for all NAL enhanced record transactions. This means that the cataloging enhance transaction nullifies the charge of the "O" level acquisitions record. Between October and May 1985 NAL's participation in the Enhance Project dramatically reduced its FTU charges by 74 percent, realizing a savings of more than \$4,500.

Most important, however, is that NAL now has the capability to permanently add the NAL call number field to the 26 percent of the non-LC and NLM records modified annually by NAL in the OCLC data base. The permanent addition of the NAL call number to existing OCLC records enables libraries borrowing NAL materials to supply the NAL call number on their interlibrary loan requests--thus reducing the workload on the NAL Lending Branch and enabling them to process loan requests more quickly.

For further information about the Enhance Project, contact: Patricia John, Head, Cataloging Branch, Room 110, National Agricultural Library, (301) 344-3728. 


NAL JOINS DOCLINE AS FIRST NON-MEDICAL LIBRARY

The Lending Branch of the NAL is participating as a test library for the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) DOCLINE system. The NAL is the first non-medical library to join DOCLINE which at this time is being tested by 10 libraries.

DOCLINE is the NLM's automated interlibrary loan (ILL) request and referral system. The system was developed to fill an immediate need for improved service to the health professional by the rapid routing of ILL requests throughout the Regional Medical Library Network.

NAL will use DOCLINE primarily to fill ILL requests from USDA personnel. Last year approximately 4,000 ILL requests were forwarded to NLM to meet agriculturalists' demand for literature on the bio-medical aspects of subject areas such as food science, veterinary medicine, pesticides, and genetics. The figure is expected to increase next year.

Online access will be particularly advantageous in terms of time savings for mail delivery. Use of the electronic technology, one way, has already reduced turnaround time for filling requests from 14 to 7 days.

For further information, contact Veronica Lefebvre, Acting Head, Lending Branch, Room 300, National Agricultural Library, (301) 344-3503. 

PROTECTION OF CORN BIBLIOGRAPHY ISSUED

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has announced the publication of a new bibliography entitled: The Protection of Corn, 1980–November 1984, AGRICOLA Citations for Diseases, Insects, Nematodes, Chemicals, and other Environmental Considerations.

This bibliography is Number 36 in the Bibliographies and Literature of Agriculture (BLA) series of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the first bibliography in a series jointly sponsored by the NAL and the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticides Programs (EPA-OPP).

The sources referenced in the bibliography include the majority of the latest available information from United States publications involving the protection of corn throughout the growing and processing stages.

Copies are available for purchase from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Telephone: (703) 487-4780. Report No.: PB85-222669. Cost: \$19.00 (paper copy) and \$4.50 (microfiche).



Copies of a new Special Reference Brief entitled Citrus Canker Disease (NAL SRB 85-01) by Susan Whitmore, Farming and Forestry Branch, is available free upon request. Send a self-addressed mailing label with request to References Branches, Room 111, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705.

SURPLUS PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following publications are surplus to the needs of the National Agricultural Library's collection. They will be made available to any interested organization that regularly sends free publications to NAL. This includes most Federal, land-grant, and agricultural research institutions as well as many others. Foreign institutions will need to provide a U.S. mailing address or make other special arrangements with U.S. sources for shipment of material.

If interested, please write to: National Agricultural Library, USDA, Attn: Collection Development, Room 204, Beltsville, MD 20705, or call Leslie Kulp, (301) 344-1562.

1. The Analyst – v. 6, 1881 – v. 80, (bound except v. 76 in loose issues).
2. Applied Chemistry Report – v. 1, 1916 – v. 33, 1948 (bound).
3. Enzymologia – v. 24, 1962 – v. 43, 1972 (bound).
4. Forestry Abstracts – v. 20, 1959 – v. 32, 1971.
5. Journal of Farm Economics – v. 23, 1941 – v. 49, 1967.
6. Journal of Physiology – v. 131, 1956 – v. 149, 1959 (bound).
7. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association – v. 106, 1945 – v. 127, 1955 (bound).
8. Journal of the Optical Society of America – v. 7, 1923 – v. 71, 1981 (most volumes bound).
9. Poultry Science – v. 15, 1936 – v. 20, 1941, v. 25, 1946 – v. 31, 1952 and v. 33, 1954 – v. 38, 1959 (bound).
10. Review of Scientific Instruments – v. 1, 1930 – v. 42, 1971 (bound).
11. Zeitschrift fur Physiologische Chemie – v. 44, 1905 – v. 264, 1940 (bound).



ASSOCIATES NAL, INC. HOST ANNUAL MEETING

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Associates NAL, Inc. was held at the Beltsville Holiday Inn, July 18. Outgoing, two-term Associates President Harry Dewey presents the year-in-review and bids the membership farewell in his own inimitable style.



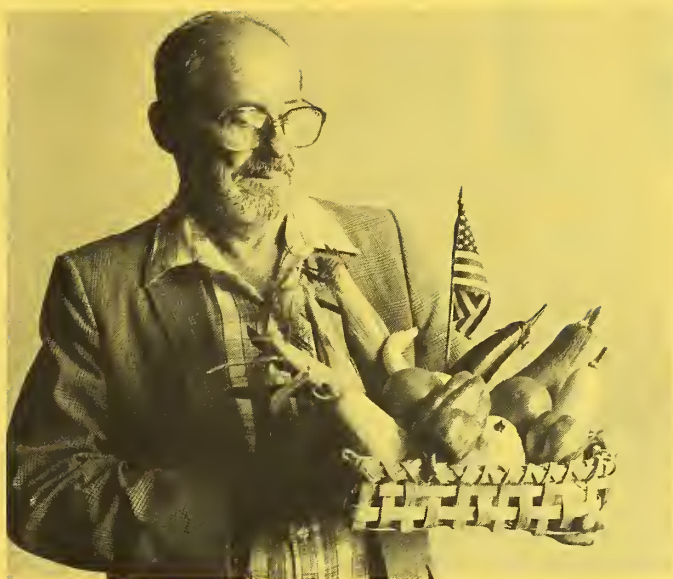
Harry Dewey (left), Joseph N. Swab, C. Rose Broome, Robyn C. Frank, and Jayne T. MacLean. On behalf of Dr. Barbara Williams Jenkins, Chairperson, Awards Committee, Harry Dewey presented 1985 Associates awards to: C. Rose Broome, Citation of Special Recognition for her efforts in developing an in-house database using NAL's Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection; Robyn C. Frank Professional Achievement Award. Frank authored/edited the Directory of Food and Nutrition Information Services and Resources published by Oryx Press, 1984; and Jayne T. MacLean, Distinguished Service Award, for her dedicated service to the Associates and NAL, displaying outstanding skill and knowledge.



Associates member and NAL Acquisitions Branch Head Joseph Swab (r.) was presented a Certificate of Recognition by the District of Columbia Chapter of Sigma Xi, a scientific research society. Joe was recognized for his efforts in facilitating the work of scientists through the selection and acquisition of scientific literature. Chapter President Foster Morrison holds up gift book presented to Swab.



Guest speaker, Dr. Albert A. Piringer, Chairman, Horticultural Sciences Institute, USDA speaking to annual meeting attendees on "Phytophilately: Horticulture in the Mail." Dr. Piringer has assembled and photographed a unique collection of horticultural stamps gathered from around the world. His colorful slides, and information and entertaining commentary delighted the audience.



Associates members got a taste of Harry Dengler's home-grown centerpiece. The picture-perfect produce and hand-made basket are a tribute to Harry's many talents and interest.



Anticipating a busy membership year newly elected officers pause a moment for a group portrait. From l. to r. are: Jayne MacLean, Recording Secretary; Lida Allen, Treasurer; Clifford Orvedal, Vice-President; Wayne Rasmussen, President; Maria Pisa, Executive Secretary.



NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

1985 BIOSIS SEARCH GUIDE. 700 p.
\$85.00. Order from BIOSIS User
Services, 2100 Arch St., Philadelphia,
PA 19103-1399. Tel.: (800) 523-4806.

*1985-86 CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY.
Paperback \$13.00 (S/N 052-070-05994-0);
Cloth cover \$17.00 (S/N 52-070-59995-8).

**AERATION OF PONDS USED IN
AQUACULTURE. Washington, D.C., U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Soil
Conservation Service. 1984. 20 p.
\$7.00. (SCS/ENG/AEN No. 3.)
PB85-174837/XAB.

**DOSESCREEN: A COMPUTER PROGRAM TO
AID DOSE PLACEMENT. Berkeley, CA, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Forest
Service. 1984. 17 p. \$7.00.
(FSGTR-PSW No. 78.) PB85-178366/XAB.

**ENGINEERING FIELD MANUAL FOR
CONSERVATION PRACTICES. Washington,
D.C., U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Soil Conservation Service. 1984.
1,074 p. Contact NTIS for price quote.
(SCS/ENG/FM-E No. 2.) PB85-175164/XAB.

**ETHYLENE AND LOW-TEMPERATURE
TREATMENTS OF HONEYDEW MELONS TO
FACILITATE LONG-DISTANCE SHIPPING.
Beltsville, MD, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Agricultural Research
Service. 1984. 27 p. \$8.50.
(ARS No. 10.) PB85-181170/XAB.

**FACTORS AFFECTING U.S. MILK
PRODUCTION. Washington, D.C., U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Economic
Research Service. 1985. 28 p. \$8.50.
(USDA/AER No. 527.) PB85-177566/XAB.

**IMPROVED ESOPHAGEAL FISTULA CLOSURE
DEVICES FOR CATTLE AND SHEEP.
Beltsville, MD, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Agricultural Research
Service. 1985. 20 p. \$7.00. (ARS
No. 26.) PB85-181162/XAB.

*INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY R&D: CRITICAL
TRENDS AND ISSUES. Washington, D.C.,
Office of Technology Assessment. 1985.
364 p. \$9.50. S/N 052-003-00976-5.

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION
PRACTICES. Washington, D.C., U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Soil
Conservation Service. 1984. 345 p.
\$26.50. PB85-177137/XAB.

*NUTRITION AND THE ELDERLY: A SELECTED
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR NUTRITION AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS. Beltsville, MD,
U.S. Department of Agriculture, National
Agricultural Library. 1985. 150 p.
\$6.00. S/N 001-024-00218-6.
Bibliographies and Literature of
Agriculture (BLA) Series No. 34.

*THE RURAL RESOURCES GUIDE. Washington,
D.C., U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Office of Rural Development Policy. 1985.
\$12.00. S/N 001-019-00379.

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION
OF FAMILY-SIZE COMMERCIAL FARMS.
Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Economic Research Service.
1985. 13 p. \$7.00. (USDA/AIB No. 492.)
PB85-178028/XAB.

**THEORETICAL IMPROVEMENT OF AUTOTETRAPLOID
CROPS: INTERPOPULATION AND INTRAPOPULATION
SELECTION. Beltsville, MD, U.S. Department
of Agriculture, Agricultural Research
Service. 1985. 39 p. \$8.50. (USDA/TB
No. 1689.) PB85-181188XAB.

**U.S. TURKEY INDUSTRY. Washington, D.C.,
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic
Research Service. 1985. 71 p. \$10.00.
(USDA/AER No. 525.) PB85-180586/XAB.

*Order from Superintendent of Documents,
U.S. Government Printing Office,
Washington, D.C. 20402. Tel: (202)
783-3238.

**Order from National Technical Information
Service, Identification Section, 5285 Port
Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Tel:
(703) 487-4780. All titles listed are
available in microfiche for \$4.50 each.





AGRICULTURE DATEBOOK

September 4: ELECTRONIC MAIL ASSOCIATION. "The Next Decade's Projects for Electronic Mail Around the World." Washington, D.C. Contact: Michael F. Cavanagh, EMA, Suite 300, 1919 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

September 8-13: SYMPOSIUM ON ALLELOCHEMICALS: ROLE IN AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECOLOGY. Chicago, IL, Hyatt-Regency. Speaker: USDA Assistant Secretary Orville Bentley. Contact: Dr. George R. Waller, Division of Biochemistry, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74178. Tel: (405) 624-6199.

September 9-12: GENETIC ENGINEERING OF ANIMALS: AN AGRICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE. Davis, CA. Contact: Carroll Miller, The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California. Davis, CA 95616.

September 16-17: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS REFERENCE ORGANIZATION WORKSHOP. St. Paul, MN. Contact: Louise Letnes, 232 Classroom Office Bldg., Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. Tel: (612) 376-3866.

September 16-20: THIRD AGRICULTURAL MARKETING WORKSHOP FOR THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. New Orleans, LA. Co-sponsored by USDA and USAID. Contact: Caribbean Basin Agricultural Workshop, 344 Camp St., Suite 711, New Orleans, LA 70130. Tel: (504) 529-3644.

September 22-27: INTERNATIONAL ENZYME ENGINEERING CONFERENCE. Washington, D.C. Contact: Engineering Foundation Conferences, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017.

October 7-9: UPDATE IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY 1985. "Genes and Systems in Development." Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco, CA. Contact: NATURE Publishing Co., 65 Bleecker St., New York, NY 10012. Tel: (212) 477-9600.

October 27-31: 99TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS INTERNATIONAL MEETING. Washington, D.C., Shoreham Hotel. Contact: Margaret Ridgell, AOAC, 111 N. 19th Street, Suite 210, Arlington, VA 22209.

October 20-25: 48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE (ASIS). MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: ASIS, 1010 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Tel: (202) 659-3644.

November 17-21: THIRD INTERNATIONAL DRIP/TRICKLE IRRIGATION CONGRESS. Centre Plaza Holiday Inn, Fresno, CA. Sponsored by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and the Irrigation Association. The Cooperative State Research Service is a cooperative sponsor. Contact: ASAE, 2950 Niles Rd., St. Joseph, MI 49085-9659.

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NAL Building, Beltsville, MD

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